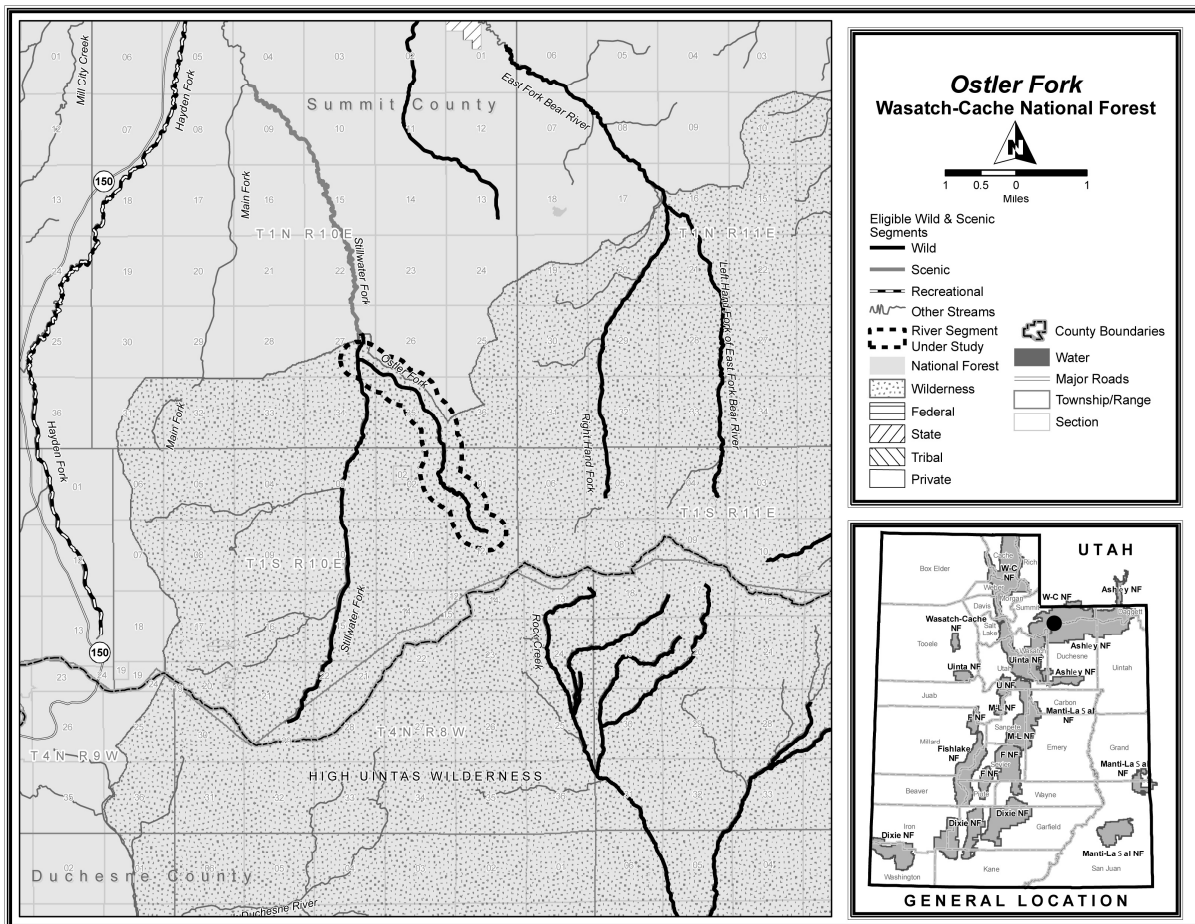


# Ostler Fork River Suitability Evaluation Report (SER)



## STUDY AREA SUMMARY

**Name of River:** Ostler Fork

**River Mileage:**

Studied: 3.7 miles, from source to confluence with Stillwater Fork

Eligible: Same

**Location:**

|             |  |  |                          |       |
|-------------|--|--|--------------------------|-------|
| Ostler Fork | Wasatch-Cache National Forest, Evanston Ranger District, Summit County, Utah |  | Congressional District 1 |       |
|             | Start  | End                                    | Classification           | Miles |
| Segment 1   | NW ¼ NE ¼ Sect. 12, T 1 N, R 10 E, SLM                                       | SE ¼ SE ¼ Sect. 27, T 1 N, R 10 E, SLM | Wild                     | 3.7   |

### **Physical Description of River Segment:**

Ostler Fork extends from its source at Amethyst Lake to its confluence with the Stillwater Fork and flows between the elevations of ~10,000 ft. to ~9,000 ft. The river originates from intensively glaciated headwaters and traverses through large glacial deposits, dropping rapidly through a bedrock valley. The lower end of the segment is very steep and is primarily made up of step-pools and cascades, making a rather spectacular and unusual stream for this area. Vegetation on the uplands is characterized by aspen

and lodgepole at lower elevations, grading into spruce-fir forests at upper elevations. The upper cirque basin is surrounded by spruce-fir krummholz with alpine meadows at the highest elevations. Riparian communities consist of willows with grass and sedge openings. Human impacts are present in the form of dispersed recreation trails and campsites; otherwise, the area has had minor human impacts. This drainage is one of the few in the Uinta Mountains where there is no grazing of domestic sheep or cattle, an important distinctive characteristic. No threatened, endangered or sensitive plant species are known to occur in the corridor. Deer, elk, moose, and possibly mountain goats inhabit the area. Big horn sheep habitat is present. Smaller species include ptarmigan and pika. No threatened, endangered, or sensitive animal species are known to occur in the corridor, although habitat is present for wolverine, Canada lynx, boreal owl, and great gray owl, all sensitive species. Fish species include cutthroat trout (possibly Bonneville cutthroat trout, a sensitive species). The fishery is rated Class III (important) by the State of Utah.

## **ELIGIBILITY**

**Name and Date of Eligibility Document:** Revised Forest Plan, Wasatch-Cache National Forest 2003, Appendix VIII, USDA Forest Service; Draft Inventory of Rivers on Wasatch-Cache National Forest, Eligible for Inclusion in the national Wild and Scenic Rivers System 1999.

**Determination of Free-flowing Condition:** The Ostler Fork is free from channel modifications and structures, and the natural flow of the river is unmodified. This river is free-flowing.

### **Summary of Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORV):**

**Ecology** – This ecological setting is as near to "pristine" as there is on the North Slope of the Uintas. No cattle are grazed in the drainage; a small portion of the stream corridor is grazed by sheep at the end of the segment, resulting in an ecosystem that is not affected by non-native species. The ecological value of the corridor is outstandingly remarkable.

## **CLASSIFICATION**

### **Basis for the Classification of River – Wild**

Because the Ostler Fork is free-flowing and possesses an outstandingly remarkable value, it is eligible for the National Wild and Scenic River System. The Ostler Fork can be classified as a wild river because:

- Free of impoundment.
- Essentially primitive, little or no evidence of human activity.
- Presence of a few inconspicuous structures, particularly those of historic or cultural value.
- Limited amount of domestic grazing.
- Little or no evidence of past timber harvest and no ongoing timber harvest.
- Generally inaccessible except by trail.
- No roads, railroads or other provision for vehicular traffic within the area. A few existing roads leading to the boundary of the area are acceptable.
- Meets or exceeds the Federal criteria or federally approved state standards for aesthetics, for propagation of fish and wildlife normally adapted to the habitat of the river, and for primary contact recreation (swimming) except when exceeded by natural conditions.

## **SUITABILITY REPORT**

**Landownership and Land Uses** – The segment is located on the Evanston Ranger District in Summit County, Utah. The segment is entirely within National Forest system lands, and entirely within the High Uintas Wilderness, however some of the ¼ stream corridor extends off Wilderness and onto Forest land (approximately 127 acres of the total acres).

| River Mile | Ownership                     | Acres             |
|------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| 0-3.7      | Wasatch-Cache National Forest | 1250              |
|            | <b>Total:</b>                 | <b>1250 acres</b> |

This area is within the Eastern Summit County Planning and Zoning jurisdiction. This area is zoned as Agricultural Grazing 160.

**Mineral and Energy Resource Activities** – The eligible Ostler Fork segment is entirely within the High Uintas Wilderness, and has been withdrawn from mineral entry and mineral leasing.

**Water Resources Development** – There are no dams, diversions, or other channel modifications on this segment. Designation into the Wild and Scenic river system does not affect existing, valid water rights. The stream is tributary to the Bear River which is used and managed for agricultural uses in southwest Wyoming and southeast Idaho, municipal water in Evanston and Cokeville, Wyoming, for environmental uses to maintain wetland and wildlife habitats, recreational, and for reservoir storage (Bear River Basin Water Plan, Executive Summary 2001, Wyoming Water Development Commission).

**Transportation, Facilities, and Other Developments** – Trail 149 parallels the full length of the segment to Amethyst Lake.

**Recreation Activities** – Recreation use is heavy. Hiking, horseback riding, and fishing are all popular. The hike to Amethyst Lake is mostly through coniferous forest and meadows. For the last mile of the river corridor there are views of Ostler Peak and its glacial cirque. Amethyst Lake is the largest and deepest of the lakes at the head of the Bear River system. There are no known historic or prehistoric sites in the corridor.

**Grazing Activities** – There is no grazing except for recreational stock use (horses, llamas) along the majority of this segment. The lower portion of this stream corridor is within the Stillwater Sheep Allotment, where the river corridor itself is used by permitted livestock for short periods while trailing or herding. The grazing allotment permittee must operate in compliance with an Allotment Management Plan (AMP) and Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) administered by the Wasatch-Cache National Forest.

**Other Resource Activities** – There are no current or planned Wasatch-Cache National Forest projects within this stream corridor.

**Special Designations** – This stream segment is within the High Uintas Wilderness.

Ostler Fork is a fish bearing stream and is managed by the Wasatch-Cache National Forest as Category 1 Fish-Bearing Stream Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas (RHCA). A RHCA includes traditional riparian corridors, wetlands, intermittent streams, and other areas that help maintain the integrity of aquatic ecosystems by (1) influencing the delivery of coarse sediment, organic matter, and woody debris to streams, (2) providing root strength for channel stability, (3) shading the stream, and (4) protecting water quality. This designation still allows for a full range of activities but it emphasizes the achievement of riparian management objectives that are identified on a site-by-site basis. These objectives should include riparian vegetation and instream habitat conditions consist of the stream and the area on either side of the stream extending from the edges of the active stream channel to 300 feet slope distance (600 feet, including both sides of the stream channel).

Land management direction for Wasatch-Cache National Forest land for the majority of the stream corridor:

Management Prescription 1.2 Opportunity Class II: This area in existing wilderness is characterized by predominately unmodified natural environment. Human induced change is evident but will recover (slowly in higher elevation areas). Outstanding opportunities for solitude and unconfined recreation exist. Encounters with others are more frequent than Class I.

Management Prescription 1.3 Opportunity Class III: This area in existing wilderness is characterized by predominately unmodified natural environment, but impacts could persist from year to year. During peak season and in popular areas concentrated use is more common and opportunities for solitude and unconfined recreation more limited.

(S1.1-3-1) Timber harvest, vegetation/fuel treatment, road building, new recreation development, mountain biking, and use of motorized equipment such as chainsaws and helicopters are not allowed. Exceptions to motorized equipment use may be granted in emergency situations (i.e., wildland fire, search and rescue).

(S1.1-3-2) Allow no net increase in miles of trail with the exception of the Bonneville Shoreline Trail.

(G1.1-3-1) Grazing and wildland fire use are allowed; prescribed fire is allowed to meet wilderness fire management objectives (FSM2324.2).

Land management direction for Wasatch-Cache National Forest land on the northeast side of the stream corridor near the end of the segment:

Management Prescription 4.1 Emphasis on Backcountry Non-motorized Settings: These areas provide recreation opportunities in remote and isolated settings where visitors can obtain a relatively high degree of solitude and the environment is in a near natural state. Access within these areas is through the use of non-motorized trails. Sights and sounds of others are minimal. Visitors will largely be managed off-site, with signs and regulations posted at area boundaries. Management of recreation impacts may be as undeveloped or Concentrated Use Areas (CUA) limited to a semi-primitive nature with regulation of use a priority management tool over site-hardening. The need for visitor self-reliance is high. Management visibility is low with backcountry ranger patrols focusing on monitoring and maintaining natural conditions and processes.

(S4.1) Timber harvest, road construction<sup>1</sup> and new recreation development are not allowed.

(G4.1-1) Vegetation/fuel treatment, prescribed fire, and wildland fire use are allowed to mimic historic conditions and to restore ecosystem functioning.

(G4.1-2) Grazing is allowed on open allotments to meet site-specifically defined desired conditions.

**Socio-Economic Environment** – This stream is located in Summit County. It is a rugged and mountainous area and was named because it includes 39 of the highest mountain peaks in Utah. Visitors can access this area from the southeast via the Kamas Ranger District on the Mirror Lake Highway or approach it from the north through Evanston Ranger District that includes land in Wyoming and Utah. Evanston, Wyoming is the largest town in the Bridger Valley of Uinta County, Wyoming. As of 2005, Uinta County had 21,000 residents with 12,000 of them living in Evanston. The main industries are agricultural and grazing, the trona mines in between Evanston and Green River, Wyoming, and service related businesses for the local population and visiting tourists.

As of 2000 the population of Summit County, Utah was 29,736 and by 2005 was estimated at 35,001. Its county seat is Coalville and the largest city is Park City. The resort city of Park City, being close to Salt Lake City, has made tremendous growth as an upscale getaway from the city, bringing surprising development to the area. There area a wide range of industries that influence the economy of Summit County. The main industries are cattle ranching and tourism in the rural communities and in the Park City area the economy shifts toward the ski industry, support services for tourism, and resort and residential development.

The highest number of recreational users of the Uintas comes from the Wasatch Front, which is less than 100 miles away; people from Provo to Ogden travel to visit the area. Local use has increased over the years and includes visitors from southwest Wyoming and Summit County, Utah. The National Forest land in Summit County is fast becoming a four-season destination. The mountainous terrain and abundant lakes invite visitors to the Scenic Byway to hike, camp, fish, ride mountain bikes, backpack and ride off-highway vehicles in the summer. During the winter, the quality snow draws legions of backcountry skiers, dog sledders and snowmobilers.

**Current Administration and Funding Needs if Designated** – The current administering agencies for lands along this segment are the Wasatch-Cache National Forest and Summit County. The National Forest System lands along the segment are managed by the Wasatch-Cache National Forest, through the use of the Revised Forest Plan, Wasatch Cache-National Forest, 2003.

The following information is based on 2001 data, which doesn't account for inflation over the past six years, but is the best available data. If a river is designated as Wild, Scenic, or Recreational, the actual cost of preparing the comprehensive river management plan would average \$200,000 per plan for 86 segments, which would cost approximately \$17.2 million the first two to three years following designation. It was estimated that annual management costs for a high complexity river would be \$200,000; a moderate complexity river would be \$50,000; and a low complexity river at \$25,000. Using an average of complexity costs, it would cost the Forest Service around \$7.8 million annually for 86 segments. (Estimated Costs of Wild and Scenic Rivers Program - V. 091104)

#### **SUITABILITY FACTOR ASSESSMENT:**

**(1) The extent and determination of the degree to which the agency proposes or a State or its political subdivisions might participate in the shared preservation and administration of the river, including the costs thereof, should it be proposed for inclusion in the System**

Eligible rivers are protected and managed by the Forest Service according to standards included in Appendix VIII of this Revised Forest Plan until designated by Congress, or otherwise directed by other legal means. The Wasatch-Cache National Forest Revised Plan provides direction to implement Management Prescriptions for stream segments that are suitable for Wild and Scenic River designation by Congress. Once designated, the Wasatch-Cache National Forest will apply Management Prescriptions numbers to the designated Wild (2.1), Scenic (2.2), and Recreational (2.3) Rivers on Forest, which include land corridors that extend 1/4 mile from each bank.

The State of Utah has not demonstrated interest or disinterest in sharing of the costs.

**(2) The state/local government's ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on non-federal lands. Include any conflicting local zoning and/or land use controls that could occur.**

This entire stream segment and corridor is on the Wasatch-Cache National Forest.

**(3) Support or opposition to designation.**

Comments to the January 1999 Draft Inventory of Rivers on the Wasatch-Cache National Forest Eligible for Inclusion I the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System were in support of this stream designation.

During scoping comments were received that both supported and opposed designation of this segment. Summit County, conservation organizations and others thought protecting the headwaters of the Bear River was important. Uinta County, Wyoming, Kamas City and others did not support designation because it might affect historical uses.

No public comments were received during the comment period for the Draft EIS specific to just the Ostler

Fork. Of the three organized campaign responses all three supported a positive suitability finding for this segment.

**(4) The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs or policies and in meeting regional objectives.**

Designation of the Ostler Fork supports the goals of Wilderness.

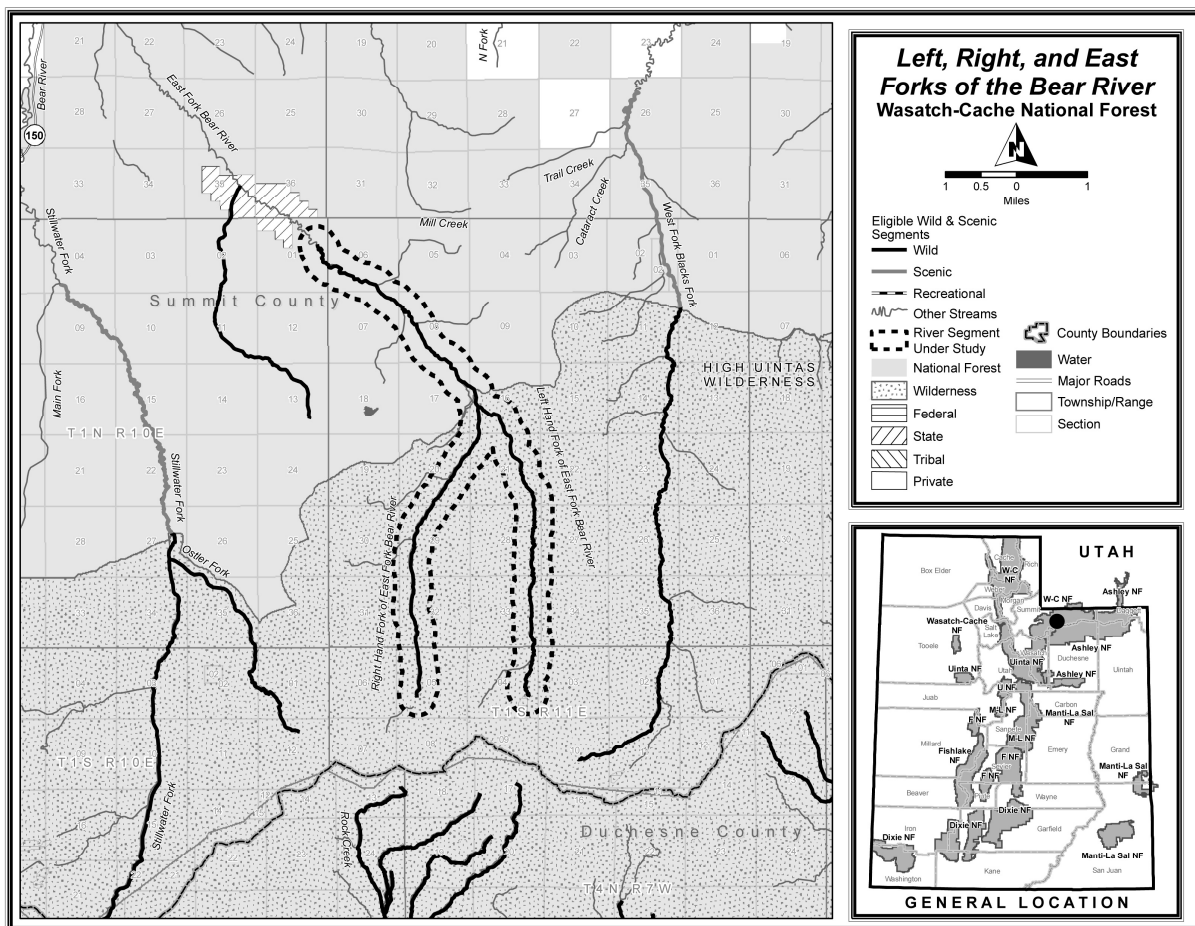
**(5) Contribution to river system or basin integrity.**

Suitability designation of this segment contributes to the upper Bear River basin integrity when combined with the eligible headwater stream segments of Hayden Fork, Stillwater, Boundary Creek and Left and Right Hand Fork of the Bear River.

**(6) Demonstrated or potential commitment for public volunteers, partnerships, and/or stewardship commitments for management and/or funding of the river segment.**

There are no public volunteer commitments currently for this stream segment, but there are partnerships with the Forest and public and government groups on the Evanston Ranger District.

# **Left Fork, Right Fork, and East Fork Bear River Suitability Evaluation Report (SER)**



## **STUDY AREA SUMMARY**

**Name of River:** Left Fork, Right Fork, and East Fork Bear River

**River Mileage:**

*Left Fork, Right Fork, and East Fork Bear River*

Studied: 13.3 miles, from Alsop Lake and Norice Lake to near Trailhead

Eligible: Same

### **Location:**

|  |  |                                       |                          |       |
|--|--|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------|
| Left, Right, and East Forks Bear River | Wasatch-Cache National Forest, Evanston Ranger District, Summit County, Utah |                                       | Congressional District 1 |       |
|  | Start  | End                                   | Classification           | Miles |
| Source of Right Fork                   | NE ¼ SE ¼ Sect. 4, T 1 N, R 11 E, SLM  | SE ¼ NE ¼ Sect. 1, T 1 N, R 10 E, SLM | Wild                     | 13.3  |
| Source of Left Fork                    | NW ¼ SW ¼ Sect. 5, T 1 N, R 11 E, SLM  |                                       |                          |       |

**Physical Description of River Segment:**

The stream originates from intensively glaciated headlands and alpine settings in the Uinta Mountains and extends to broader floodplains, braided reaches, forests, and meadows at its lower elevations. These two forks of the Bear lie in textbook classic narrow U-shaped valleys formed by the northward movement of Pleistocene glaciers from their origins at higher elevations. The stream segment begins at near 10,500 feet to runs to about 8500 feet at its lowest elevation. The Right Hand Fork of the East Fork of the Bear River, from its source near Norice Lake to the East Fork confluence downstream is a segment about 5 miles long. The Left Hand Fork of the East Fork of the Bear River, from its source near Allsop Lake to the East Fork confluence downstream is about equal distance. The Left Hand Fork and the Right Hand Fork join together to form the East Fork of the Bear River. Just above the confluence of the two smaller streams there is a waterfall roughly 70 feet in height. Vegetation in the upper cirque basin is spruce-fir krummholz and alpine meadows. Directly above the wilderness boundary vegetation is characterized by aspen, lodgepole, and some sagebrush openings at lower elevations, grading into spruce-fir forests at upper elevations. Natural appearing riparian ecosystems at lower elevations are dominated by willows with grass and sedge openings. There are extensive wetlands in the corridor, and the hydrologic character is classified as C3-C4, snowmelt dominated, frequent overflow, and meandering.

**ELIGIBILITY**

**Name and Date of Eligibility Document:** Revised Forest Plan, Wasatch-Cache National Forest 2003, Appendix VIII, USDA Forest Service; Draft Inventory of Rivers on Wasatch-Cache National Forest, Eligible for Inclusion in the national Wild and Scenic Rivers System 1999.

**Determination of Free-flowing Condition:** The Left Hand and Right Hand and East Forks of the Bear River are not modified by human construction. These rivers are free-flowing.

**Summary of Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORV):**

**Scenery** – This same glacial action combined with the anticlinal uplift of the general Uinta Range has produced a scenic display in these drainages that is remarkable. Views of the Cathedral, Mt. Beulah, and the waterfalls near the confluence of the Left and Right Hand Forks are special when compared to others in the range. The scenery value along these forks is remarkable and outstanding.

**Geology/Hydrology** – The geological setting in the upper basins of the Left and Right Hand Forks of the Bear provides students of glacial geomorphology a fine example of the glacial trough shaped valleys. This value can be considered outstandingly remarkable.

**Ecology** – The ecological value of the corridor is outstandingly remarkable. The interdependency of plant, vertebrate and invertebrate species in these narrow river valleys offer us a wonderful look at the unique ecological systems that have evolved here over long periods of time.

\*In the 1999 Draft Inventory of Rivers on Wasatch-Cache National Forest, Eligible for Inclusion in the national Wild and Scenic Rivers System this segment's outstandingly remarkable values were correctly listed for scenery, geology/hydrology, and ecology. These values were listed incorrectly in Appendix VIII of the 2003 Revised Forest Plan for the Wasatch-Cache National Forest, where this segment's outstandingly remarkable values were listed as scenery only in error. The geology/hydrology, and ecology values were inadvertently omitted.

**CLASSIFICATION****Basis for the Classification of River – Wild**

The Left Hand Fork, Right Hand Fork and East Fork of the Bear River are free-flowing. Outstanding scenic, geological, and ecological values along these courses make them eligible for the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. The rivers may be classified as Wild because they are or have:

- Free of impoundment.



- Essentially primitive, little or no evidence of human activity.
- Presence of a few inconspicuous structures, particularly those of historic or cultural value.
- Limited amount of domestic grazing.
- Little or no evidence of past timber harvest and no ongoing timber harvest.
- Generally inaccessible except by trail.
- No roads, railroads or other provision for vehicular traffic within the area. A few existing roads leading to the boundary of the area are acceptable.
- Meets or exceeds the Federal criteria or federally approved state standards for aesthetics, for propagation of fish and wildlife normally adapted to the habitat of the river, and for primary contact recreation (swimming) except when exceeded by natural conditions.

### **SUITABILITY REPORT**

**Landownership and Land Uses** – The segment lies entirely in the High Uintas Wilderness on National Forest lands.

| <b>River Mile</b> | <b>Ownership</b>                            | <b>Acres</b>      |
|-------------------|---|-------------------|
| 0-9.7             | Wasatch-Cache National Forest<br>Wilderness | 3104              |
| 9.7-13.3          | Wasatch-Cache National Forest               | 1152              |
|                   | <b>Total:</b>                               | <b>4256 acres</b> |

**Mineral and Energy Resource Activities** – The eligible recreational segment of the Left Hand, Right Hand Fork and a small portion of the East Fork are in the High Uintas Wilderness and are withdrawn from mineral or energy resource activities. The majority of the East Fork Bear River portion of this segment is in a high oil and gas potential area and there is an active lease within the stream corridor. There are no known locatable mineral deposits of economic value on the forest and there are no known valuable deposits known on patented mining claims that now appear as private land in-holdings on the forest. Presently, there are no significant mining activities on the Forest.

**Water Resources Development** – There are no dams, diversions, or other channel modifications on this segment. Designation into the Wild and Scenic river system does not affect existing, valid water rights. The Wyoming State Water Plan, Final Report identifies three previously studied reservoir sites below the Boy Scout Camp and this eligible segment called the East Fork Reservoir Sites, No. 1, 2, and 3 (3,700 – 13,300 acre-ft.).

**Transportation, Facilities, and Other Developments** – Trail 151 provides access to the Right Hand Fork and Trail 100 leads up the East Fork and further up to the Left Hand Fork providing access to the High Uintas Wilderness and some high country lakes.

**Recreation Activities** – Scenic views from Trail 151 include the unique waterfalls, the spectacular Cathedral (a massive mountain peak) and Mt. Beulah. People make the trek to see these places, and can take home wonderful photos of their experience as memoirs. Hiking use also occurs on Trail 100, but the shape of this stream's valley and its narrowness, along with the pattern of vegetation are more limiting to scenic views than along Trail 151.

**Grazing Activities** – The area is included in the East Fork Bear Cattle Allotment. While some livestock grazing impacts occur, cattle tend to have a minor effect on the conditions of the riparian communities in the area. The grazing allotment permittee must operate in compliance with an Allotment Management Plan (AMP) and Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) administered by the Wasatch-Cache National Forest.

**Other Resource Activities** – There are some historical resources in this area such as scattered tie hack cabins, a splash dam, and a scaler’s cabin within the corridor above the trail head. Some of these sites may be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. The remnants of an old log flume are visible near the falls. While examination of this complex of remains by archeologists or historians might add significantly to our knowledge of the tie-hack era, these remains are not unique in or to the Uinta Mountains.

**Special Designations** – This eligible segment of the Left Hand, Right Hand, and East Fork Bear River are all fish bearing streams and are managed by the Wasatch-Cache National Forest as Category 1 Fish-Bearing Stream Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas (RHCA). A RHCA includes traditional riparian corridors, wetlands, intermittent streams, and other areas that help maintain the integrity of aquatic ecosystems by (1) influencing the delivery of coarse sediment, organic matter, and woody debris to streams, (2) providing root strength for channel stability, (3) shading the stream, and (4) protecting water quality. This designation still allows for a full range of activities but it emphasizes the achievement of riparian management objectives that are identified on a site-by-site basis. These objectives should include riparian vegetation and instream habitat conditions consist of the stream and the area on either side of the stream extending from the edges of the active stream channel to 300 feet slope distance (600 feet, including both sides of the stream channel).

Approximately 3.6 miles of the eligible segment are in a Wasatch-Cache National Forest inventoried roadless area. These are areas that do not have developed and maintained roads, and that are substantially natural. Approximately 9.7 miles of this eligible segment are in the High Uintas Wilderness.

Land management direction for the Wasatch-Cache National Forest land within both the Left Hand and Right Hand Forks and a small portion of the East Fork Bear:

Management Prescription 1.2 Opportunity Class II: This area in existing wilderness is characterized by predominately unmodified natural environment. Human induced change is evident but will recover (slowly in higher elevation areas). Outstanding opportunities for solitude and unconfined recreation exist. Encounters with others are more frequent than Class I.

Management Prescription 1.3 Opportunity Class III: This area in existing wilderness is characterized by predominately unmodified natural environment, but impacts could persist from year to year. During peak season and in popular areas concentrated use is more common and opportunities for solitude and unconfined recreation more limited.

(S1.1-3-1) Timber harvest, vegetation/fuel treatment, road building, new recreation development, mountain biking, and use of motorized equipment such as chainsaws and helicopters are not allowed. Exceptions to motorized equipment use may be granted in emergency situations (i.e., wildland fire, search and rescue).

(S1.1-3-2) Allow no net increase in miles of trail with the exception of the Bonneville Shoreline Trail.

(G1.1-3-1) Grazing and wildland fire use are allowed; prescribed fire is allowed to meet wilderness fire management objectives (FSM2324.2).

Land management direction for Wasatch-Cache National Forest land on the east side of East Fork Bear River below the Wilderness boundary:

Management Prescription 1.5 Recommended Wilderness: These are areas recommended for wilderness. They were identified through the Forest Plan revision roadless area inventory, evaluation and recommendation process. This analysis is required by the National Forest Management Act (NFMA) planning regulations and the 1984 Utah Wilderness Act. Congress retains the final authority for designating wilderness areas. For areas recommended as wilderness, wilderness characteristics must be

protected until Congress takes final action (FSH 1909.12, 7.31). These areas are managed to maintain the characteristics qualifying them as capable and available for wilderness recommendation. Activities must not result in long-term changes to the wilderness character.

(S1.5) Timber harvest, vegetation/fuel treatment, road building, new recreation development, new trail construction, mountain biking, and use of motorized equipment such as chainsaws and helicopters are not allowed. Exceptions to motorized equipment use may be granted in emergency situations (i.e., wildland fire, search and rescue).

(G1.5-1) Snowmobiling is allowed as shown on Winter Recreation and Travel Management Maps.

(G1.5-2) Wildland fire use and prescribed fire are allowed.

(G1.5-3) Grazing is allowed on open allotments to meet site-specifically defined desired conditions.

Land management direction for Wasatch-Cache National Forest land within the stream corridor below the Wilderness boundary:

Management Prescription 3.1a Aquatic Habitat: consists of the stream and adjacent riparian areas (or 300 feet either side of the stream whichever is greater). Because of the large number of existing facilities (roads, developed recreation sites, trails), already located within areas mapped as 3.1a, and because of their relatively high value and small proportion of the landscape, development outside already developed areas within this prescription is to be avoided. Protect or restore proper hydrologic functioning.

(S3.1A-1) New recreation facility development is not allowed.

(S3.1A-2) Cutting fuelwood larger than 5 inches in diameter is not allowed.

(G3.1A-1) Timber harvest, vegetation/fuel treatments, prescribed fire and wildland fire use are allowed only for the purposes of maintaining, improving or restoring riparian and aquatic habitat to desired conditions or to protect property in the wildland urban interface.

(G3.1A-2) Livestock grazing is allowed with the utilization standard for Riparian Class 1, and to meet site-specifically developed desired conditions.

(G3.1A-3) Road construction is not allowed except for road crossings.

(G3.1A-4) New trail construction is allowed if consistent with site-specifically defined riparian management objectives.

Land management direction for Wasatch-Cache National Forest land for a small portion of the stream segment near the trailhead:

Management Prescription 4.1 Emphasis on Backcountry Non-motorized Settings: These areas provide recreation opportunities in remote and isolated settings where visitors can obtain a relatively high degree of solitude and the environment is in a near natural state. Access within these areas is through the use of non-motorized trails. Sights and sounds of others are minimal. Visitors will largely be managed off-site, with signs and regulations posted at area boundaries. Management of recreation impacts may be as undeveloped or Concentrated Use Areas (CUA) limited to a semi-primitive nature with regulation of use a priority management tool over site-hardening. The need for visitor self-reliance is high. Management visibility is low with backcountry ranger patrols focusing on monitoring and maintaining natural conditions and processes.

(S4.1) Timber harvest, road construction and new recreation development are not allowed.

(G4.1-1) Vegetation/fuel treatment, prescribed fire, and wildland fire use are allowed to mimic historic conditions and to restore ecosystem functioning.

(G4.1-2) Grazing is allowed on open allotments to meet site-specifically defined desired conditions.

**Socio-Economic Environment** – This stream is located in Summit County that occupies a rugged and mountainous area and was named because it includes 39 of the highest mountain peaks in Utah. Visitors

can access this area from the southeast via the Kamas Ranger District on the Mirror Lake Highway or approach it from the north through Evanston Ranger District that includes land in Wyoming and Utah. Evanston, Wyoming is the largest town in the Bridger Valley of Uinta County, Wyoming. As of 2005, Uinta County had 21,000 residents with 12,000 of them living in Evanston. The main industries are agricultural and grazing, the trona mines in between Evanston and Green River, Wyoming, and service related businesses for the local population and visiting tourists.

As of 2000 the population of Summit County, Utah was 29,736 and by 2005 was estimated at 35,001. Its county seat is Coalville and the largest city is Park City. The resort city of Park City, being close to Salt Lake City, has made tremendous growth as an upscale getaway from the city, bringing surprising development to the area. There area a wide range of industries that influence the economy of Summit County. The main industries are cattle ranching and tourism in the rural communities and in the Park City area the economy shifts toward the ski industry, support services for tourism, and resort and residential development.

The highest number of recreational users of the Uintas comes from the Wasatch Front, which is less than 100 miles away; people from Provo to Ogden travel to visit the area. Local use has increased over the years and includes visitors from southwest Wyoming and Summit County, Utah. The National Forest land in Summit County is fast becoming a four-season destination. The mountainous terrain and abundant lakes invite visitors to the Scenic Byway to hike, camp, fish, ride mountain bikes, backpack and ride off-highway vehicles in the summer. During the winter, the quality snow draws legions of backcountry skiers, dog sledders and snowmobilers.

**Current Administration and Funding Needs if Designated** – The current administering agencies for lands along this segment are the Wasatch-Cache National Forest and Summit County. The National Forest System lands along the segment are managed by the Wasatch-Cache National Forest, through the use of the Revised Forest Plan, Wasatch Cache-National Forest, 2003.

The following information is based on 2001 data, which doesn't account for inflation over the past six years, but is the best available data. If a river is designated as Wild, Scenic, or Recreational, the actual cost of preparing the comprehensive river management plan would average \$200,000 per plan for 86 segments, which would cost approximately \$17.2 million the first two to three years following designation. It was estimated that annual management costs for a high complexity river would be \$200,000; a moderate complexity river would be \$50,000; and a low complexity river at \$25,000. Using an average of complexity costs, it would cost the Forest Service around \$7.8 million annually for 86 segments. (Estimated Costs of Wild and Scenic Rivers Program - V. 091104)

#### **SUITABILITY FACTOR ASSESSMENT:**

**(1) The extent and determination of the degree to which the agency proposes or a State or its political subdivisions might participate in the shared preservation and administration of the river, including the costs thereof, should it be proposed for inclusion in the System.**

Eligible rivers are protected and managed by the Forest Service according to standards included in Appendix VIII of this Revised Forest Plan until designated by Congress, or otherwise directed by other legal means. The Wasatch-Cache National Forest Revised Plan provides direction to implement Management Prescriptions for stream segments that are suitable for Wild and Scenic River designation by Congress. Once designated, the Wasatch-Cache National Forest will apply Management Prescriptions numbers to the designated Wild (2.1), Scenic (2.2), and Recreational (2.3) Rivers on Forest, which include land corridors that extend 1/4 mile from each bank.

The State of Utah has not demonstrated interest or disinterest in sharing of the costs.

**(2) The state/local government's ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values**

**on non-federal lands. Include any conflicting local zoning and/or land use controls that could occur.**

This entire stream segment and corridor is on the Wasatch-Cache National Forest.

**(3) Support or opposition to designation.**

Comments to the January 1999 Draft Inventory of Rivers on the Wasatch-Cache National Forest Eligible for Inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System were in support of this stream designation and wanted the East Fork segment to continue to the confluence with the Hayden Fork. The extension of this segment was not found outstandingly remarkable and was not included.

During scoping comments were received that both supported and opposed designation of this segment. Summit County, conservation organizations and others thought protecting the headwaters of the Bear River was important. Uinta County, Wyoming, Kamas City and others did not support designation because it might affect historical uses.

No public comments were received during the comment period for the Draft EIS specific to just the Left Hand, Right Hand and East Fork Bear River. Of the three organized campaign responses all three supported a positive suitability finding for this segment.

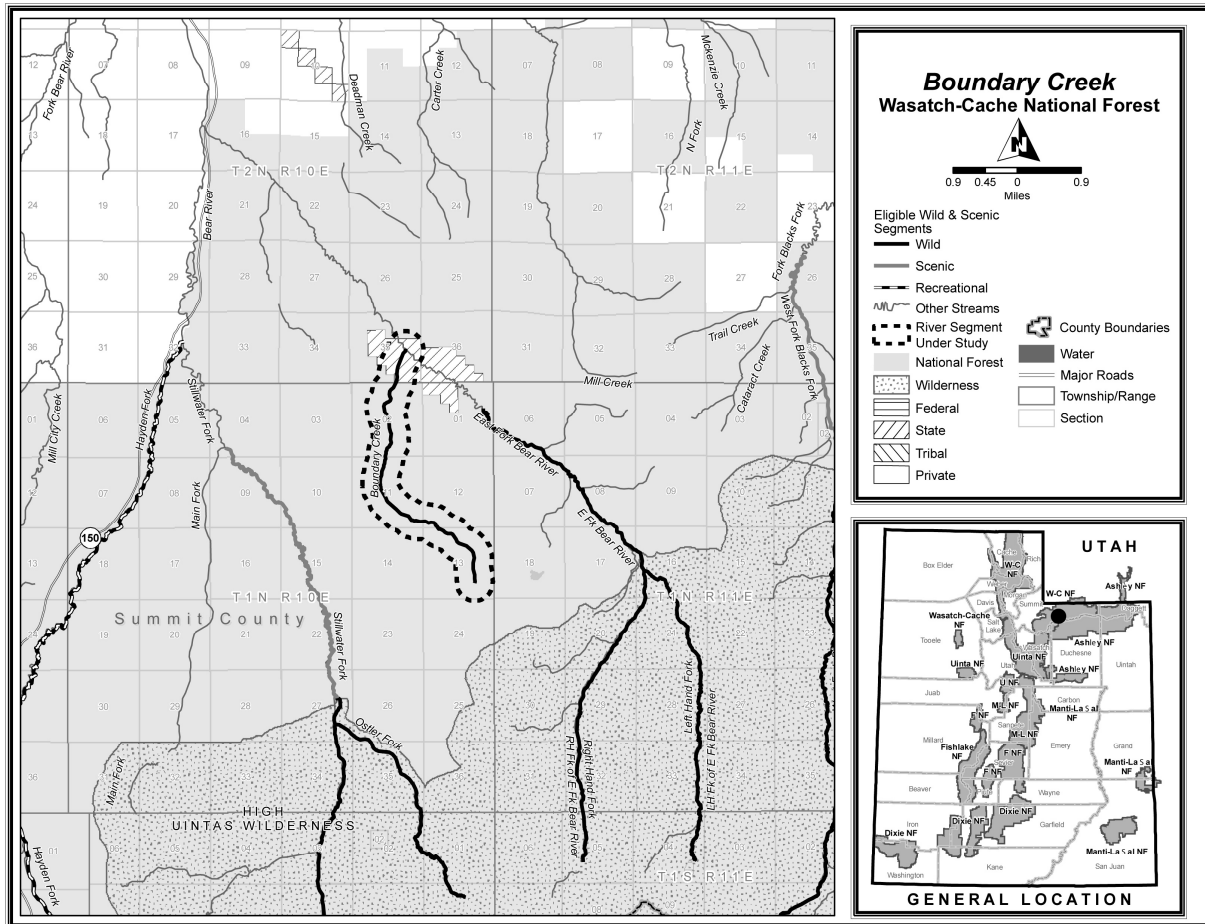
**(4) The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs or policies and in meeting regional objectives.**

Designation of the Left Hand, Right Hand Fork, and East Fork Bear River segment is consistent with the Wasatch-Cache National Forests management of the stream corridor as directed by the Forest Plan.

**(5) Contribution to river system or basin integrity.** This segment contributes to basin integrity for the upper Bear River when combined with the other eligible Bear River headwater streams, namely Boundary Creek, Hayden Fork, Stillwater Fork, and Ostler Fork stream segments. The majority of this stream is in the High Uintas Wilderness so designation of this stream segment would provide additional but similar protection to this stream.

**(6) Demonstrated or potential commitment for public volunteers, partnerships, and/or stewardship commitments for management and/or funding of the river segment.** There are no public volunteer commitments currently for this stream segment, but there are partnerships with the Forest and public and government groups on the Evanston Ranger District.

## Boundary Creek Suitability Evaluation Report (SER)



### STUDY AREA SUMMARY

**Name of River:** Boundary Creek

**River Mileage:**

Studied: 4.3 miles, from source to confluence with East Fork Bear River

Eligible: same

**Location:**

|                |  |  |                          |       |
|----------------|--|--|--------------------------|-------|
| Boundary Creek | Wasatch-Cache National Forest, Evanston Ranger District, Summit County, Utah |  | Congressional District 1 |       |
|                | Start  | End                                    | Classification           | Miles |
| Segment 1      | SW ¼ SE ¼ Sect. 13, T 1 N, R 10 E, SLM                                       | NE ¼ SE ¼ Sect. 35, T 2 N, R 10 E, SLM | Wild                     | 4.3   |

**Physical Description of River Segment:**

This is a smaller north-flowing tributary stream that feeds the East Fork Bear River. The headwaters of the stream are at Baker Lake at an elevation of 10,500 feet, while the confluence is at 8,800 feet. Below Baker Lake there are no other lakes in the drainage. The stream bed is rocky, as with other adjacent drainages, and there are few meanders or falls. Soils are typical, thin, rocky, high-elevation forest soils.

The creek has its headwaters in the spruce-fir forest zone, and continues to flow through lodgepole forests to the confluence. Forests typically grow adjacent to the stream banks, but there are a few small meadows present in the middle portion of the segment. It is a primitive, unmodified environment.

### **ELIGIBILITY**

**Name and Date of Eligibility Document:** Revised Forest Plan, Wasatch-Cache National Forest 2003, Appendix VIII, USDA Forest Service; Draft Inventory of Rivers on Wasatch-Cache National Forest, Eligible for Inclusion in the national Wild and Scenic Rivers System 1999.

**Determination of Free-flowing Condition:** The segment is free from channel modifications and structures. The natural stream flow of the river is unimpaired. The segment is free-flowing.

### **Summary of Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORV):**

**Ecology** – Boundary Creek is a river and corridor which has not been modified by man. This spruce/fir and lodgepole ecological setting is at a somewhat lower elevation than some others in the inventory of rivers in the Uinta Mountains. As such it contains qualities that are distinct from the alpine river settings. Added to this distinction, the Boundary Creek drainage has escaped heavy recreation pressure, timber harvest and grazing over recent decades, making the area nearly pristine ecologically. The ecological value of the corridor is outstandingly remarkable.

### **CLASSIFICATION**

#### **Basis for the Classification of River – Wild**

Boundary Creek is eligible for the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, and may be classified as a wild river because the stream and stream corridor is or has:

- Free of impoundment.
- Essentially primitive, little or no evidence of human activity.
- Presence of a few inconspicuous structures, particularly those of historic or cultural value.
- Limited amount of domestic grazing.
- Little or no evidence of past timber harvest and no ongoing timber harvest.
- Generally inaccessible except by trail.
- No roads, railroads or other provision for vehicular traffic within the area. A few existing roads leading to the boundary of the area are acceptable.
- Meets or exceeds the Federal criteria or federally approved state standards for aesthetics, for propagation of fish and wildlife normally adapted to the habitat of the river, and for primary contact recreation (swimming) except when exceeded by natural conditions.

### **SUITABILITY REPORT**

**Landownership and Land Uses** – Most of this river segment is on the National Forest. The lowest ½ mile of the stream is State of Utah land which is leased to the Boys Scouts of America for East Fork of the Bear River Scout Camp.

| <b>River Mile</b> | <b>Ownership</b>                                  | <b>Acres</b>      |
|-------------------|---|-------------------|
| 0-3.8             | Wasatch-Cache National Forest                     | 1295              |
| 3.8-4.3           | State land, administered by Boy Scouts of America | 180               |
|                   | <b>Total:</b>                                     | <b>1475 acres</b> |

Readers Note: The study area boundaries displayed in Appendix A, Suitability Evaluation Reports, do not represent actual Wild and Scenic River boundaries, but the area of interest for eligible river segments. It should be noted that of the eligible rivers studied, 14 of the 86 river segments appear to include portions of private land, at the end of segments near the National Forest boundary. These typically short river

stretches (1/4 to 4 miles long) were included in the eligibility study as part of the river segment length because they brought the river segment to a logical terminus at a confluence with a larger stream, also contained the ORVs of the National Forest portion of the segment, or National Forest land was located within 1/4 mile of these segments. These lengths are also included in the tables found in this suitability study. The magnitude of this effect is small, representing approximately 22 miles total over 14 segments, or less than 3 percent of the total mileage in the study. The final decision will apply only to river segments located on National Forest System lands. The dashed lines on the individual river maps represent the approximate 1/4 mile river corridor boundary of the river segment under study. If Congress chooses to add any of the recommended river segments to the National Wild and Scenic River System, the Forest Service would be required to develop Comprehensive River Management Plan (CRMP). Section 3(b) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act requires the establishment of detailed boundaries (an average of not more than 320 acres per river mile). At that time, the boundary would be adjusted to exclude private, State, or other Federal agency land located at the end or beginning of the river segment. Congress could include private lands (in holdings) within the boundaries of the designated river area, however, management restrictions would apply only to public lands.

This area is within the Eastern Summit County Planning and Zoning jurisdiction. This area is zoned as Agricultural Grazing 160.

**Mineral and Energy Resource Activities** – The eligible Boundary Creek segment is entirely within an area that has a high oil and gas potential area. Approximately 3.8 miles of this segment are within an active lease area. There are no known locatable mineral deposits of economic value on the forest and there are no known valuable deposits known on patented mining claims that now appear as private land in-holdings on the forest. Presently, there are no significant mining activities on the Forest.

**Water Resources Development** – There are no dams, diversions, or other channel modifications on this segment. Designation into the Wild and Scenic river system does not affect existing, valid water rights.

**Transportation, Facilities, and Other Developments** – The area is accessed by a Trail 8099 from near the Boy Scout Camp. At the base of the segment walking is easy for about a half mile, after this a steep ascent begins for the next half mile, and from thereon the hike to Baker Lake is relatively easy.

**Recreation Activities** – Outdoor recreation provides a primitive experience. There is little if any winter use in the area because of the steep approaches, lodgepole forest, and its remote location. While this drainage is close to the Boy Scout camp, they do not use the area to any great extent. Visitor numbers here are quite low. Some fishing is done, but, the drainage lacks more popular larger lakes that attract fishing. Scenery and views from the river corridor are very restricted by conifers for most of the stream's length. At one point, an old forest fire has removed some stands and views are more open, however, these views are not as spectacular as in some adjacent areas. There are the remains of six or more tie-hack cabins sites in the middle and upper ends of this drainage. These are not large commissary compounds and do not appear to be eligible for the National Register.

**Other Resource Activities** – There is no outfitter-guide service in the drainage. There is no white-water recreation opportunity available, as the stream is too small to support this. There are no current Wasatch-Cache National Forest projects in this stream corridor. The East Fork Salvage project was approved for this area but has not been initiated as of yet. The East Fork Wildfire burnt in 2003.

**Grazing Activities** – A small portion of this stream corridor is grazed by cattle on the East Fork Bear River Allotment near the confluence of Boundary Creek and the East Fork Bear River, with the majority of the grazing occurring near the boundary of the private land, this allotment does not extend upstream into the headwaters of Boundary Creek. The river corridor itself is used by permitted livestock for short periods while trailing or herding and occasionally by recreation stock. The grazing allotment permittee



must operate in compliance with an Allotment Management Plan (AMP) and Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) administered by the Wasatch-Cache National Forest.

**Special Designations** – Boundary Creek is a fish bearing stream and is managed by the Wasatch-Cache National Forest as a Category 1 Fish-Bearing Stream Riparian Habitat Conservation Area (RHCA). A RHCA include traditional riparian corridors, wetlands, intermittent streams, and other areas that help maintain the integrity of aquatic ecosystems by (1) influencing the delivery of coarse sediment, organic matter, and woody debris to streams, (2) providing root strength for channel stability, (3) shading the stream, and (4) protecting water quality. This designation still allows for a full range of activities but it emphasizes the achievement of riparian management objectives that are identified on a site-by-site basis. These objectives should include riparian vegetation and instream habitat conditions consist of the stream and the area on either side of the stream extending from the edges of the active stream channel to 300 feet slope distance (600 feet, including both sides of the stream channel).

Approximately 3.8 miles of this stream corridor a within a Wasatch-Cache National Forest inventoried roadless area. These are areas that do not have developed and maintained roads, and that are substantially natural.

Approximately 2.5 miles of this stream segment are within two areas that the State of Utah recognizes as a Drinking Water Source Protection Zone. This protection zone refers to the area adjacent to the stream segment is protected for the private and Forest uses in the area. This designation defines the area where contaminants are limited from the surface and subsurface areas surrounding a surface source of drinking water supplying a public water system (PWS), over which or through which contaminants are reasonably likely to move toward and reach the source. Surface water means all water which is open to the atmosphere and subject to surface runoff, and subsurface water relates to any well, spring, tunnel, adit, or other underground opening from or through which ground-water flows or is pumped from subsurface water-bearing formations.

Land management direction for Wasatch-Cache National Forest land within the stream corridor:

Management Prescription 3.1a Aquatic Habitat: consists of the stream and adjacent riparian areas (or 300 feet either side of the stream whichever is greater). Because of the large number of existing facilities (roads, developed recreation sites, trails), already located within areas mapped as 3.1a, and because of their relatively high value and small proportion of the landscape, development outside already developed areas within this prescription is to be avoided. Protect or restore proper hydrologic functioning.

(S3.1A-1) New recreation facility development is not allowed.

(S3.1A-2) Cutting fuelwood larger than 5 inches in diameter is not allowed.

(G3.1A-1) Timber harvest, vegetation/fuel treatments, prescribed fire, and wildland fire use are allowed only for the purposes of maintaining, improving or restoring riparian and aquatic habitat to desired conditions or to protect property in the wildland urban interface.

(G3.1A-2) Livestock grazing is allowed with the utilization standard for Riparian Class 1, and to meet site-specifically developed desired conditions.

(G3.1A-3) Road construction is not allowed except for road crossings.

(G3.1A-4) New trail construction is allowed if consistent with site-specifically defined riparian management objectives.

Land management direction for Wasatch-Cache National Forest land within the stream corridor but outside the 3.1a buffer along the entire segment on the east side until the boundary with private land:

Management Prescription 4.1 Emphasis on Backcountry Non-motorized Settings: These areas provide recreation opportunities in remote and isolated settings where visitors can obtain a relatively high degree of solitude and the environment is in a near natural state. Access within these areas is through the use of

non-motorized trails. Sights and sounds of others are minimal. Visitors will largely be managed off-site, with signs and regulations posted at area boundaries. Management of recreation impacts may be as undeveloped or CUAs limited to a semi-primitive nature with regulation of use a priority management tool over site-hardening. The need for visitor self-reliance is high. Management visibility is low with backcountry ranger patrols focusing on monitoring and maintaining natural conditions and processes.

(S4.1) Timber harvest, road construction and new recreation development are not allowed.

(G4.1-1) Vegetation/fuel treatment, prescribed fire, and wildland fire use are allowed to mimic historic conditions and to restore ecosystem functioning.

(G4.1-2) Grazing is allowed on open allotments to meet site-specifically defined desired conditions.

Land management direction for Wasatch-Cache National Forest land within the stream corridor but outside the 3.1a buffer along the entire segment on the west side until the boundary with private land:

Management Prescription 4.4 Emphasis on Recreation Motorized Settings: These areas provide recreation opportunities within a range of semi-primitive to rural settings. Visitors may be able to obtain a moderate degree of solitude, but this prescription area provides opportunities for increased social interaction.

Access to and within these areas is primarily through the use of motorized trails and roads. Sights and sounds of others may be noticeable throughout the area. Management of recreation impacts range from semi-primitive to rural depending on the ROS category at the specific area and visitor desires for convenience. Impacts to natural resources are dealt with through various management techniques and regulations. Management visibility is moderate to high with ranger patrols focusing on education, user ethics, and enforcement.

(G4.4-1) Timber harvest, vegetation/fuel treatment, road construction, prescribed fire and wildland fire use are allowed to mimic historic conditions, to restore ecosystem functioning, and to protect property in the wildland urban interface, and are designed to be compatible with motorized recreation, but must not detract from the recreation setting over the long-term.

(G4.4-2) Grazing is allowed on open allotments to meet site-specifically defined desired conditions.

(G4.4-3) New recreation development and new trail construction are allowed.

Land management direction for Wasatch-Cache National Forest land within the ¼ mile stream corridor for a small portion of Forest land north of the private land boundary:

Management Prescription 5.1 Emphasis on maintaining or restoring forested ecosystem integrity while meeting multiple resource objectives: Emphasis is on properly functioning conditions. Emphasis is not on timber growth and yield. Instead it is on maintaining or restoring vegetation composition, structure and patterns within the historic range of variability.

(G5.1-1) Timber harvest, vegetation/fuel treatment, prescribed fire and wildland fire use are allowed to maintain or restore proper functioning conditions, for hazardous fuel reduction, to protect property in the wildland urban interface, and to provide for commodity and non commodity outputs and services.

(G5.1-2) Road construction, new recreation development and new trail construction are allowed.

(G5.1-3) Grazing is allowed on open allotments to meet site-specifically defined desired conditions.

**Socio-Economic Environment** – This stream is located in Summit County, Utah. Visitors can access this area from the southeast via the Kamas Ranger District on the Mirror Lake Highway or approach it from the north through Evanston Ranger District that includes land in Wyoming and Utah. Evanston, Wyoming is the largest town in the Bridger Valley of Uinta County, Wyoming. As of 2005, Uinta County had 21,000 residents with 12,000 of them living in Evanston. The main industries are agricultural and grazing, the trona mines in between Evanston and Green River, Wyoming, and service related

businesses for the local population and visiting tourists.

As of 2000 the population of Summit County, Utah was 29,736 and by 2005 was estimated at 35,001. Its county seat is Coalville and the largest city is Park City. The resort city of Park City, being close to Salt Lake City, has made tremendous growth as an upscale getaway from the city, bringing surprising development to the area. There are a wide range of industries that influence the economy of Summit County. The main industries are cattle ranching and tourism in the rural communities and in the Park City area the economy shifts toward the ski industry, support services for tourism, and resort and residential development.

The highest number of recreational users of the Uintas comes from the Wasatch Front, which is less than 100 miles away; people from Provo to Ogden travel to visit the area. Local use has increased over the years and includes visitors from southwest Wyoming and Summit County, Utah. The National Forest land in Summit County is fast becoming a four-season destination. The mountainous terrain and abundant lakes invite visitors to the Scenic Byway to hike, camp, fish, ride mountain bikes, backpack and ride off-highway vehicles in the summer. During the winter, the quality snow draws legions of backcountry skiers, dog sledgers and snowmobilers.

**Current Administration and Funding Needs if Designated** – The current administering agencies for lands along this segment are the Wasatch-Cache National Forest and Summit County. The National Forest System lands along the segment are managed by the Wasatch-Cache National Forest, through the use of the Revised Forest Plan, Wasatch Cache-National Forest, 2003.

The private lands located at the end of the segment at the Forest boundary are subject to regulations proposed by the Eastern Summit County Planning District in the development plan and codes. The Eastern Summit County Development Code serves the interests and goals of the eastern side of the county, including the unincorporated areas surrounding, but not including, the towns of Henefer, Coalville, Kamas, Oakley and Francis, and Bear River.

The following information is based on 2001 data, which doesn't account for inflation over the past six years, but is the best available data. If a river is designated as Wild, Scenic, or Recreational, the actual cost of preparing the comprehensive river management plan would average \$200,000 per plan for 86 segments, which would cost approximately \$17.2 million the first two to three years following designation. It was estimated that annual management costs for a high complexity river would be \$200,000; a moderate complexity river would be \$50,000; and a low complexity river at \$25,000. Using an average of complexity costs, it would cost the Forest Service around \$7.8 million annually for 86 segments. (Estimated Costs of Wild and Scenic Rivers Program - V. 091104)

#### **SUITABILITY FACTOR ASSESSMENT:**

**(1) The extent and determination of the degree to which the agency proposes or a State or its political subdivisions might participate in the shared preservation and administration of the river, including the costs thereof, should it be proposed for inclusion in the System.**

Eligible rivers are protected and managed by the Forest Service according to standards included in Appendix VIII of this Revised Forest Plan until designated by Congress, or otherwise directed by other legal means. The Wasatch-Cache National Forest Revised Plan provides direction to implement Management Prescriptions for stream segments that are suitable for Wild and Scenic River designation by Congress. Once designated, the Wasatch-Cache National Forest will apply Management Prescriptions numbers to the designated Wild (2.1), Scenic (2.2), and Recreational (2.3) Rivers on Forest, which include land corridors that extend 1/4 mile from each bank.

The State of Utah has not demonstrated interest or disinterest in sharing of the costs.

**(2) The state/local government's ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on non-federal lands. Include any conflicting local zoning and/or land use controls that could occur.** The majority of this stream segment and corridor is on the Wasatch-Cache National Forest. There are private lands within this stream corridor that are managed by Summit County, Utah. This area is within the Eastern Summit County Planning and Zoning jurisdiction. This area is zoned as Agricultural Grazing 160.

**(3) Support or opposition to designation.** There were no specific comments for Boundary Creek to the January 1999 Draft Inventory of Rivers on the Wasatch-Cache National Forest Eligible for Inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

During scoping comments were received that both supported and opposed designation of this segment. Summit County, conservation organizations and others thought protecting the headwaters of the Bear River was important. Uinta County, Wyoming, Kamas City and others did not support designation because it might affect historical uses.

No public comments were received during the comment period for the Draft EIS specific to just the Boundary Creek. Of the three organized campaign responses all three supported a positive suitability finding for this segment.

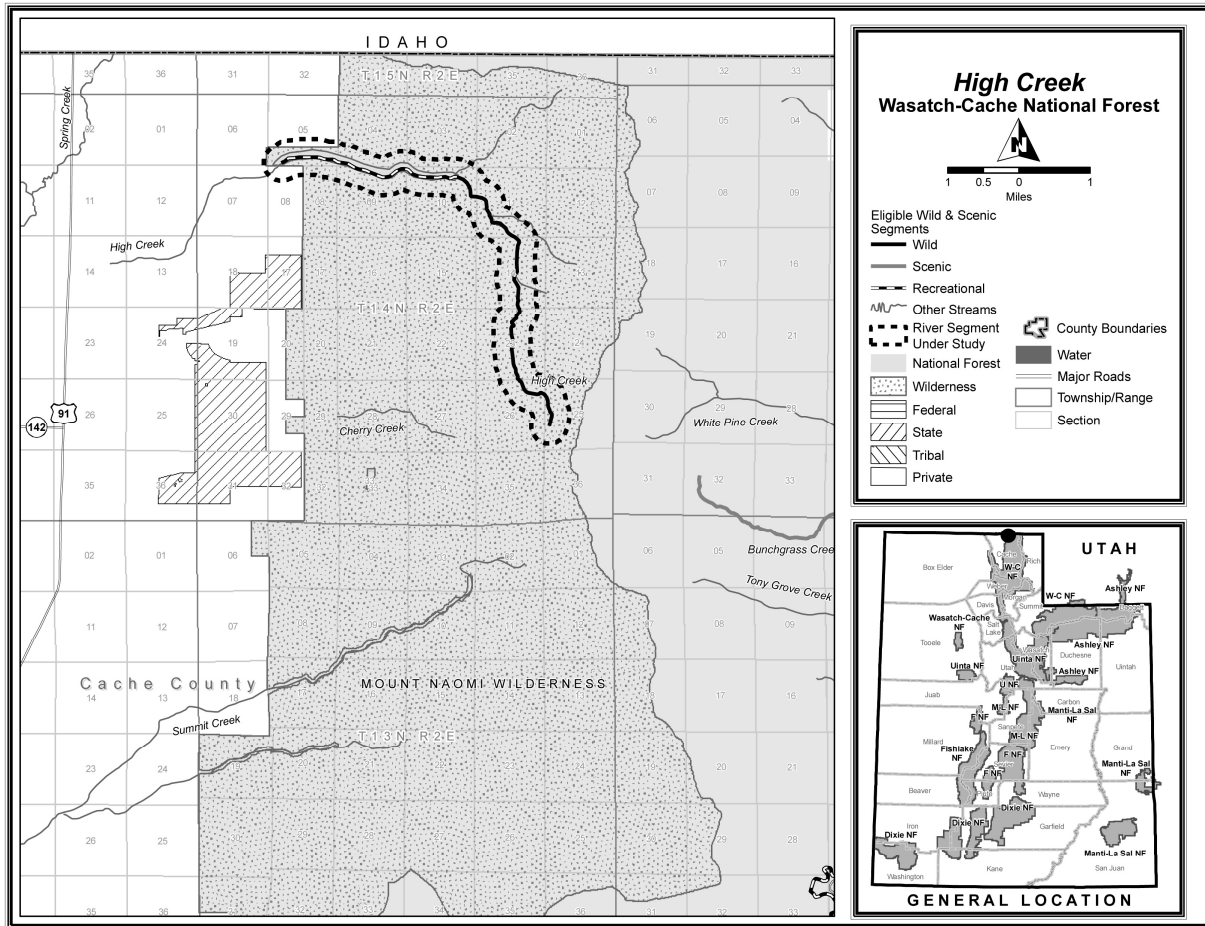
**(4) The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs or policies and in meeting regional objectives.** Designation of the Boundary Creek segment is consistent with the Wasatch-Cache National Forests management of the stream corridor as directed by the Forest Plan, and this designation would add one more layer of protection for areas managed as RHCA's and roadless. Designation would also be consistent with the Utah Department of Wildlife Resources plan for improving fisheries. Designation may add additional regulations to private lands located at the end of the segment at the Forest boundary. These lands are subject to regulations proposed by the Eastern Summit County Planning District in the development plan and codes.

**(5) Contribution to river system or basin integrity.** This segment contributes to the basin integrity when combined with other eligible stream segments that make up the headwater streams of the Bear River. Basin integrity for the upper Bear River would be enhanced when this segment is combined with the other eligible Bear River headwater streams, the Left Hand, Right Hand, and East Fork Bear River, Hayden Fork, Ostler Fork and Stillwater.

**(6) Demonstrated or potential commitment for public volunteers, partnerships, and/or stewardship commitments for management and/or funding of the river segment.**

There are no public volunteer commitments currently for this stream segment, but there are partnerships with the Forest and public and government groups on the Evanston Ranger District.

## High Creek Suitability Evaluation Report (SER)



### STUDY AREA SUMMARY

**Name of River:** High Creek

**River Mileage:**

Studied: 7 miles, High Creek Lake to Forest boundary

Eligible: same

**Location:**

|            |  |  |                          |       |
|------------|--|--|--------------------------|-------|
| High Creek | Wasatch-Cache National Forest, Logan Ranger District, Cache County, Utah |  | Congressional District 1 |       |
|            | Start  | End                                    | Classification           | Miles |
| Segment 1  | NW ¼ SW ¼ Sect. 11, T 14 N, R 2 E, SLM                                   | NW ¼ NE ¼ Sect. 10, T 14 N, R 2 E, SLM | Wild                     | 4     |
| Segment 2  | NW ¼ NE ¼ Sect. 10, T 14 N, R 2 E, SLM                                   | SW ¼ SW ¼ Sect. 5, T 14 N, R 2 E, SLM  | Scenic                   | 3     |

\*This stream was listed as a wild river, however upon further study the level of development and road access in the lower portion of the stream disqualifies the wild classification for that portion. Therefore, the classification for this stream segment has been split where Management Prescription 1.3 ends, just upstream from where the road ends at NAD 27 441449.55 E, 4646970.12 E UTM 12.

**Physical Description of River Segment:**

This segment of High Creek extends from its source in the headwaters of the South Fork in Mt. Naomi Wilderness to the Forest boundary. There are several beaver ponds along the segment. The stream lies in a narrow, steep canyon. Vegetation is primarily maple/mountain brush and sagebrush on lower elevation uplands, with cottonwood in the riparian area. Douglas fir increases in dominance at higher elevations. Tall willows occur at upper elevations. Cronquist daisy, a sensitive species, occurs on limestone cliff faces within the corridor. Wildlife is typical for these habitats; the corridor provides moose, deer, and elk habitat. Fish species include rainbow and brown trout and sculpin. The State of Utah ranks the fishery as Class III (important).

**ELIGIBILITY**

**Name and Date of Eligibility Document:** Revised Forest Plan, Wasatch-Cache National Forest 2003, Appendix VIII, USDA Forest Service; Draft Inventory of Rivers on Wasatch-Cache National Forest, Eligible for Inclusion in the national Wild and Scenic Rivers System, 1999.

**Determination of Free-flowing Condition:** High Creek is free-flowing, as it has no man-made structures, diversions, nor major channel modifications.

**Summary of Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORV):**

**Ecology** – The ecological setting at High Creek is near potential natural condition, and is functioning in a close to optimal manner. This value, when compared to nearby adjacent drainages and areas can be considered outstandingly remarkable.

**CLASSIFICATION**

**Basis for the Classification of River** – Segment 1—Wild; Segment 2—Scenic

High Creek is free-flowing and possesses an outstandingly remarkable ecological value; therefore the stream is eligible for the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

The WCNF Plan (Appendix VIII-5) classifies the entire segment of High Creek as a wild stream to the Forest Boundary. This stream has a parallel road which disqualifies that section of the stream for wild classification from the forest boundary to the wilderness boundary. To correct this error the classification is wild from the source to the trailhead parking because a wild river segment is supposed to be accessible only by trail.

The stream can be classified as a wild river because it is:

- Free of impoundment.
- It is essentially primitive.
- There is little or no evidence of human activity.
- There is some presence of a few inconspicuous structures, particularly those of historic or cultural value.
- There is a limited amount of domestic grazing.
- There is little or no evidence of past timber harvest and no ongoing timber harvest.
- The area is inaccessible except by trail.
- The stream meets or exceeds the Federal criteria or federally approved state standards for aesthetics, for propagation of fish and wildlife normally adapted to the habitat of the river, and for primary contact recreation (swimming) except when exceeded by natural conditions.

The lower portion of the stream from the trailhead to the forest boundary may be classified as recreational because:

- The bottom 2.65 miles of Road 48 (High Creek Road) accessing the High Creek Trailhead is parallel to the stream.

### **SUITABILITY REPORT**

**Landownership and Land Uses** – This segment of High Creek extends from its source in the headwaters of the South Fork in Mt. Naomi Wilderness to the forest boundary. This segment is located on the Logan Ranger District in Cache County, Utah.

| <b>River Mile</b>                      | <b>Ownership</b>              | <b>Acres</b>      |
|--|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| 0-7.1                                  | Wasatch-Cache National Forest | 2342              |
| * area within ¼ mile buffer off Forest | Private Land                  | 113               |
|  | <b>Total:</b>                 | <b>2455 acres</b> |

The private land is zoned Forest Recreation. The purpose of the forest-recreation zone is to permit the proper use of the forest areas of the county for grazing, forestry, mining, recreation and other activities to the extent compatible with the protection of the natural and scenic resources of the forests for the benefit of present and future generations (Ord. 2004-10, 8-10-2004).

**Mineral and Energy Resource Activities** – A portion of the High Creek segment is within the Mount Naomi Wilderness and has been reserved from mineral exploration. There are no known locatable mineral deposits of economic value on the forest and there are no known valuable deposits known on patented mining claims that now appear as private land in-holdings on the forest. Presently, there are no significant mining activities on the Forest. This area is not a high oil and gas potential area.

**Water Resources Development** – There are no dams, diversions, or other channel modifications on the wild portion of this segment. Designation into the Wild and Scenic river system does not affect existing, valid water rights.

**Transportation, Facilities, and Other Developments** – Forest Road 048 parallels the stream below High Creek Trailhead for approximately 2.65 miles. The road west of the trailhead parking lot restricts the creek. Above the trailhead, the Mount Naomi Peak National Recreation Trail 005 runs along the stream and beyond to High Creek Lake. Trail 005 crosses the stream 7 times. A small, primitive, developed campground is located about 1.0 mile above the Forest boundary. Trail 005 is the most heavily used trail providing access to the Mt. Naomi Wilderness.

**Recreation Activities** – The lower reaches of the corridor receive moderate to heavy dispersed recreation use on the Forest, primarily by local residents. Fishing use is light to moderate. There are no known historic or prehistoric sites within the corridor.

**Grazing Activities** – The entire stream segment runs through the High Creek Cattle Allotment. The river corridor it self is used by permitted livestock for short periods while trailing or herding and occasionally by recreation stock. The grazing allotment permittee must operate in compliance with an Allotment Management Plan (AMP) and Annual Operating Instructions (AOI) administered by the Wasatch-Cache National Forest.

**Other Resource Activities** – There are no current or planned Wasatch-Cache National Forest projects planned within this stream corridor.

**Special Designations** – High Creek is a fish bearing stream and is managed by the Wasatch-Cache

National Forest as a Category 1 Riparian Habitat Conservation Area (RHCA). Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas include traditional riparian corridors, wetlands, intermittent streams, and other areas that help maintain the integrity of aquatic ecosystems by (1) influencing the delivery of coarse sediment, organic matter, and woody debris to streams, (2) providing root strength for channel stability, (3) shading the stream, and (4) protecting water quality. This designation still allows for a full range of activities but it emphasizes the achievement of riparian management objectives that are identified on a site-by-site basis. These objectives should include riparian vegetation and instream habitat condition. A Category 1 RHCA (Fish Bearing Stream) is an RHCA that consists of the stream and the area on either side of the stream extending from the edges of the active stream channel to 300 feet slope distance (600 feet, including both sides of the stream channel).

Approximately 1.10 miles of the stream segment, below the High Creek Trailhead parking area flows through a Wasatch-Cache National Forest inventoried roadless area. These are areas that do not have developed and maintained roads, and that are substantially natural. This roadless area is a narrow band of land that is adjacent to the road and the Wilderness boundary.

Approximately 4.5 miles of this stream are within the Mt. Naomi Wilderness Area. This wilderness has unique management needs and regulations.

There are several Wasatch-Cache National Forest management prescriptions within the stream corridor that provide for watershed, wildlife, forest and recreation resource protection (Revised Forest Plan, Wasatch Cache-National Forest, 2003):

Land management direction for land within the stream corridor for the area below the High Creek Trailhead and parking area:

Management Prescription 4.4 Emphasis on Recreation Motorized Settings: These areas provide recreation opportunities within a range of semi-primitive to rural settings. Visitors may be able to obtain a moderate degree of solitude, but this prescription area provides opportunities for increased social interaction. Access to and within these areas is primarily through the use of motorized trails and roads. Sights and sounds of others may be noticeable throughout the area. Management of recreation impacts range from semi-primitive to rural depending on the ROS category at the specific area and visitor desires for convenience. Impacts to natural resources are dealt with through various management techniques and regulations. Management visibility is moderate to high with ranger patrols focusing on education, user ethics, and enforcement.

(G4.4-1) Timber harvest, vegetation/fuel treatment, road construction, prescribed fire and wildland fire use are allowed to mimic historic conditions, to restore ecosystem functioning, and to protect property in the wildland urban interface, and are designed to be compatible with motorized recreation, but must not detract from the recreation setting over the long-term.

(G4.4-2) Grazing is allowed on open allotments to meet site-specifically defined desired conditions.

(G4.4-3) New recreation development and new trail construction are allowed.

Land management direction for land within the stream corridor above the trailhead:

Management Prescription 1.3 Opportunity Class III: This area in existing wilderness is characterized by predominately unmodified natural environment, but impacts could persist from year to year. During peak season and in popular areas concentrated use is more common and opportunities for solitude and unconfined recreation more limited.

(S1.1-3-1) Timber harvest, vegetation/fuel treatment, road building, new recreation development, mountain biking, and use of motorized equipment such as chainsaws and helicopters are not allowed. Exceptions to motorized equipment use may be granted in emergency situations (i.e.,



wildland fire, search and rescue).

(S1.1-3-2) Allow no net increase in miles of trail with the exception of the Bonneville Shoreline Trail.

(G1.1-3-1) Grazing and wildland fire use are allowed; prescribed fire is allowed to meet wilderness fire management objectives (FSM2324.2).

Land management direction for land outside the stream corridor within the surrounding watershed:

Management Prescription 1.2 Opportunity Class II: This area in existing wilderness is characterized by predominately unmodified natural environment. Human induced change is evident but will recover (slowly in higher elevation areas). Outstanding opportunities for solitude and unconfined recreation exist. Encounters with others are more frequent than Class I.

**Socio-Economic Environment** – The local population of Cache Valley (estimated population of 98,622 in 2006) relies primarily on the university, agriculture, some light industry, and to increasing extent tourism and the services that support it. There is a high rate of growth expected in Cache Valley. As the population grows, a change in landscape is occurring, and agricultural and open lands are being converted for urban, commercial and industrial development. Off highway vehicle (OHV) use, hiking, fishing, biking, rock climbing, whitewater boating, skiing and snowmobiling are popular recreation activities for locals and visitors in the nearby canyons.

High Creek is a tributary stream that flows into the Cache Valley north of the town of Richmond. Water from High Creek is diverted into the Upper and Lower High Creek canals for agricultural purposes. Flow then enters City Creek which then enters into the Cub River which then flows into the Bear River. Richmond had a population 2,051 at the 2000 census, with 619 households, and 526 families residing in the city.

**Current Administration and Funding Needs if Designated** – The current administering agencies for lands along this segment are the Wasatch-Cache National Forest and Cache County. The National Forest System lands along the segment are managed by the direction of the Revised Forest Plan, Wasatch Cache-National Forest, 2003.

The following information is based on 2001 data, which doesn't account for inflation over the past six years, but is the best available data. If a river is designated as Wild, Scenic, or Recreational, the actual cost of preparing the comprehensive river management plan would average \$200,000 per plan for 86 segments, which would cost approximately \$17.2 million the first two to three years following designation. It was estimated that annual management costs for a high complexity river would be \$200,000; a moderate complexity river would be \$50,000; and a low complexity river at \$25,000. Using an average of complexity costs, it would cost the Forest Service around \$7.8 million annually for 86 segments. (Estimated Costs of Wild and Scenic Rivers Program - V. 091104)

### **SUITABILITY FACTOR ASSESSMENT:**

**(1) The extent and determination of the degree to which the agency proposes or a State or its political subdivisions might participate in the shared preservation and administration of the river, including the costs thereof, should it be proposed for inclusion in the System.**

Eligible rivers are protected and managed by the Forest Service according to standards included in Appendix VIII of the Revised Forest Plan until designated by Congress, or otherwise directed by other legal means. The Wasatch-Cache National Forest Revised Plan provides direction to implement Management Prescriptions for stream segments that are suitable for Wild and Scenic River designation by Congress. Once designated, the Wasatch-Cache National Forest will apply Management Prescriptions numbers to the designated Wild (2.1), Scenic (2.2), and Recreational (2.3) Rivers on Forest, which include land corridors that extend 1/4 mile from each bank.

The State of Utah has not demonstrated interest or disinterest in sharing of the costs.

**(2) The state/local government's ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on non-federal lands. Include any conflicting local zoning and/or land use controls that could occur.**

This entire stream segment is on the Wasatch-Cache National Forest. A small portion of private land is within the corridor. The private land could be developed in the future. This development would be directed by the County Comprehensive Plan and zoning ordinances for the Forest Recreation (FR 40) zone which allows for one seasonal cabin per forty acres.

**(3) Support or opposition to designation.**

There were no specific comments for High Creek to the January 1999 DRAFT Inventory of Rivers on the Wasatch-Cache National Forest Eligible for Inclusion I the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

During scoping some comments one individual supported designation of the portion of segment within wilderness. Cache County did not support designation

There were no supportive comments received for High Creek during the comment period for the Draft EIS. Cache County did not support designation for High Creek since they already felt it was protected.

**(4) The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs or policies and in meeting regional objectives.**

Designation of High Creek as a Wild and Scenic River system stream supports the goals of Wilderness. The majority of this stream is in the Wilderness so designation of this stream segment would provide additional but similar protection to this stream.

**(5) Contribution to river system or basin integrity.**

This segment contributes little to the basin integrity.

**(6) Demonstrated or potential commitment for public volunteers, partnerships, and/or stewardship commitments for management and/or funding of the river segment.**

There are no known groups who have shown interest in assisting with management of this river segment.